

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of March 7, 2007, claims 1, 4-6, 11 and 14 have been amended. Claims 2, 7 and 15 are canceled and claim 17 is newly submitted.

Claim 17 corresponds to amended claim 1 but is written using means plus function terminology.

Claim Objections

Claim 11 is rejected as being dependent on multiple claims. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form and therefore this objection is believed to be overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The suggested language concerning the claims has been incorporated into amended claim 14 and 16 and claim 15 is canceled to avoid duplicity with amended claim 14. As such, claims 14 and 16 are believed to be definite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §101

Claims 14 and 16 are further rejected under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As amended, claim 14 is directed to statutory subject matter since it is directed to a computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions to carry out the method set forth in claim 12 when these instructions are run on a computer or network device. For similar reasons, claim 16 is believed to be directed to statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated in view of EP 1091540, Lindholm. It is set forth with regard to claim 1 that Lindholm discloses a mobile communication device with an exchangeable front cover that comprises a keyboard and a cover processor which is connected to the keyboard by a common bus interface for connection of the cover processor to a mobile communication module.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of original claim 2 and therefore now recites that the mobile communication device cover comprises a keyboard, a display, a cover processor connected to the keyboard, and a bus interface for connection of the cover processor to a mobile communication module, wherein the bus interface is adapted to operate with a plurality of communication modules and wherein the display is connected to the bus interface for connecting the display to a processor of the mobile communication module. Support for this amendment is found in original claims 1 and 2, as well as in the figures of the present application, including Figures 1 and 2 and the description thereof in the specification.

In Lindholm, the processor (18) controls a terminal and a display means in dependence of the identified housing part assembly (see paragraph 0019). The phone includes exchangeable front covers (21,22) which include an identification unit (20) for identifying the housing part assembly. Figure 10 shows that the identification unit can communicate with the processor (18) of the phone by connector parts (23 and 25). Although the identification unit (20) has a controller (31) and a bus (30) as shown in Figure 11, the bus is for purposes of communicating with the other components of the identification unit as shown in Figure 11. The bus (30) as disclosed at paragraphs 0022 and 0023 only disclose that the bus is an internal part of the cover, but does not serve to connect the cover processor to a mobile communication part. There is communication with the processor (18) of the phone by means of the connector (23,25), but not the bus (30). The switch layout shown in Figure 5 is not part of the exchangeable covers. The covers mechanically interact with the switches (Figure 5, elements 101-120) by means of a keymat (43,44) as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

In distinction, the mobile communication device cover recited in amended claim 1 not only comprises a keyboard (not found in the exchangeable front covers of Lindholm) and a cover processor connected to the keyboard, but also a display which is connected to a bus interface for connecting the display to a processor of a mobile communication module. Lindholm does not disclose any such bus interface for connecting a display of the device cover to a mobile communication module. In fact, the purpose of the connectors (23,25) shown in Figure 10 of Lindholm is simply for purposes of presenting identification information to the processor (18) of the phone concerning the exchangeable cover so as to be able to properly interpret the depression of keys of the keymat associated with any particular cover such as those shown in Figures 3 and 4 and as explained with respect to Table 1 of Lindholm. In Lindholm, the keyboard (switches 101-120) and the display are part of the phone rather than the exchangeable cover and therefore there is no interaction between the cover and the mobile communication module for purposes of conveying keyboard information and display information from the cover to the mobile communication module.

For all of these reasons, claim 1 as amended is believed to be not anticipated by Lindholm.

Furthermore, claim 1 is also not believed to be anticipated or suggested by US patent application publication 2003/0017839, Mager.¹ Mager discloses an interchangeable covering for a mobile electronic communication device which does show buttons (140) forming part of the interchangeable covering (100). In addition, electrical contacts (147) of the mobile electronic communication device (138) can make electrical contact with electrical contacts (222) of connector element (210) forming part of interchangeable covering (100). Like Lindholm, Mager does not show that the interchangeable cover includes a display which in turn is connected to a processor of a mobile communication module by means of a bus interface forming part of the device cover.

¹ This reference was not cited with respect to claims 1 or 2, but for purposes of completeness, discussion concerning this reference is included herein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is neither anticipated nor suggested by the cited art.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-5, all of which depend from amended claim 1 are further distinguished over the cited art.

Similarly, newly submitted claim 17 which corresponds to amended claim 1, but written using means plus function terminology, is believed to be allowable in view of the cited art.

Finally, claim 11 has been amended incorporating details concerning the mobile communication cover as set forth in amended claim 1 and, for similar reasons, is believed to be not anticipated by the cited art.

Referring now to paragraph 8 of the Official Action, claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated in view of US patent application publication 2002/0039910, Malthouse, citing in particular Figures 2 and 4 and accompanying paragraph 0037.

Claim 6 as amended specifically recites a mobile communication module comprising a radio interface for connecting to a mobile communication network and a standardized serial bus to connect the communication module to a cover having at least a keypad, wherein the mobile communication module does not have a display. The cited passages in Malthouse do not disclose any standardized bus interface to connect a communication module to a cover having at least a keypad and a display. Malthouse does not show or suggest a standardized bus interface to connect a communication module to a cover having at least a keypad and a display, wherein the module does not have a display and wherein the standardized bus interface is configured to connect said module to said display of said cover.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 6 is not anticipated by Malthouse.

Since claim 6 is believed to be not anticipated by Malthouse, claims 8-10 are also not anticipated by Malthouse due to their ultimate dependency from amended claim 6.

Claim 7 has been canceled in view of amended claim 6.

Referring now to paragraph 10 of the Official Action, claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated in view of previously discussed Mager. Claim 12 has been amended to further recite the action of processing display information at the mobile communication device and connecting said information to said display of said cover by a bus interface of said cover. As such, claim 12 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and is believed to be distinguished over Mager since Mager does not disclose or suggest the transfer of information to a display of a detachable cover by means of a bus interface wherein that information is communicated by a mobile communication module. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 12 as amended is not anticipated by Mager.

Since claim 12 is believed to be not anticipated by Mager, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13, which depends from claim 12, is further not anticipated by Mager.

Similarly, claim 14 is believed to be not anticipated by Mager since it sets forth that the computer readable medium contains computer executable instructions to carry out the method of claim 12.

Claim 15 is canceled

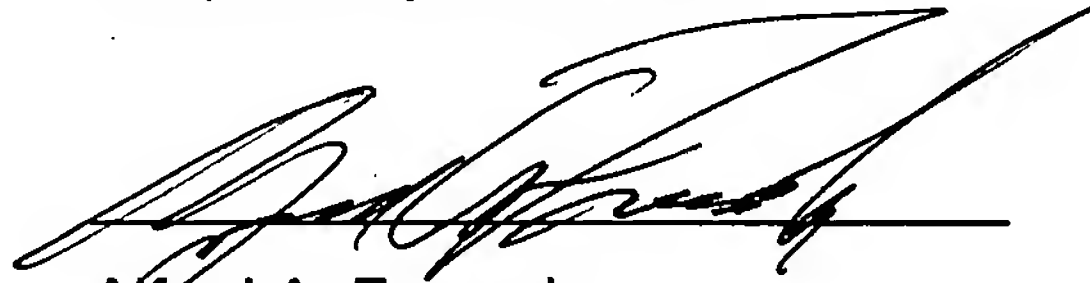
Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of Mager further in view of US patent application publication 2003/0017848, Engstrom, et al (hereinafter Engstrom). Claim 16 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 14 and sets forth that the instructions are for carrying out the method of claim 12 and, for similar reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 14, this claim is believed to be not suggested by Mager in view of Engstrom. Engstrom is only cited by the Office for showing that information can be downloadable from a server. The actions of the instructions set forth in amended claim 16 are not suggested by Mager or Engstrom.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 16 is distinguished over Mager in view of Engstrom.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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